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## FOSSIL TURTLE CAST FROM THE DAKOTA EPOCH.

BY C. S. PARMENTER, BALDWIN.

The fossil cast here represented by a plate was presented to Baker University by Rev. C. K. Jones, an alumnus of Baker University, class of 1876. The specimen was given to Mr. Jones by a resident of Cloud county, whose name I have been unable to ascertain. Mr. Jones says, in a letter to myself: "The specimen was found south of Concordia, on a divide. The formation is red sandstone, which outcrops in ledges and lies scattered all over the ground in places. The specimen was secured not far from the north line of Ottawa county, on one of the spurs facing south, just north of what is called the Bethel neighborhood, thus fixing without doubt the geological position of this fossil.

The fossil cast is composed of the characteristic hard, red sandstone of the Dakota group. Its maximum length is eleven and one-half inches. Its maximum width is nine inches. The dorsal aspect is very much more convex than the ventral and bears the well-defined impressions of the flattened portions of ten ribs. Along the line of the backbone there are the indentations of the proximal ends of fourteen ribs. A deep constriction is found four inches from one end and another evidently existed at the other. In the report of the United States Geological Survey of the Territories, Vol. II, page 16, E. D. Cope, in speaking of the rocks of the Dakota epoch, says: "No vertebrate fossils have yet been obtained from them." In the University of Kansas Geological Survey, Vol. IV, Doctor Williston says: "No vertebrate remains of any kind have so far been discovered either in Kansas or elsewhere, save impressions or casts. A record of footprints from this formation was first made by Prof. B. F. Mudge in 1866, and later one by Prof. F. H. Snow." This fossil, then, makes the third evidence of vertebrate life found in the Dakota epoch and the first and only fossil cast showing something of the structure of the animal. It is therefore unique and of great interest to students of paleontology.

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## THE DEEP WELL AT MADISON, KAN.

BY F. W. BUSHONG, EMPORIA.

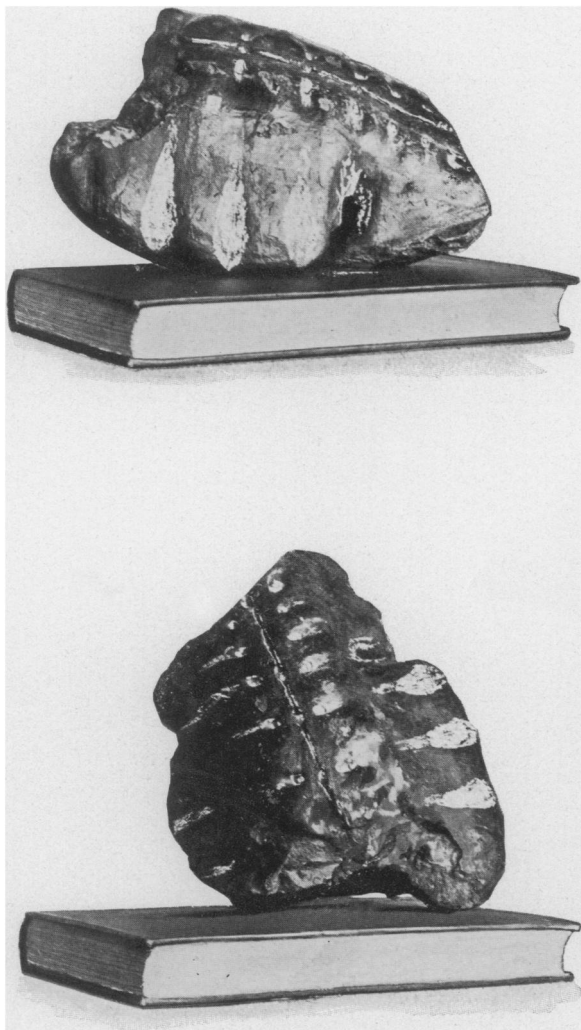
Read before the Academy December 29, 1898.

A company, with Mr. E. D. Martindale as its president, was organized at Madison, Kan., for the purpose of prospecting for gas or oil. By contract, Mr. C. L. Bloom, of Independence, Kan., agreed to drill either to the Mississippian limestone or to a depth of 2000 feet.

Work was begun in June, 1898. On the 29th of October, after frequent but not serious accidents and delays, a very hard rock, believed to belong to the Mississippian series, was reached at a depth of 1896½ feet.

The ordinary form of churn drill was used, and the measurements given below were made upon the drill rope, about half of them being made when the well was nearly filled with water. All measurements were carefully made, and are therefore correct within the limits of this method.

The well is located in the bottom land on the south bank of the Verdigris river, less than one-fourth mile north of the Santa Fe depot at Madison, the top of the well being three feet lower than the railroad track at this depot, which, according to the railroad company's engineer, is 1080 feet above sea-level. The top of the well is therefore 1077 feet above sea-level.



CAST OF FOSSIL TURTLE FROM THE DAKOTA EPOCH.